



TARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
EXPERIMENT STATION

BULLETIN LXIX.

TENING LAMBS FOR THE BRITISH MARKET.

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FATTENING LAMBS FOR THE BRITISH MARKET.

The experiment began on Oct. 24, 1890, and closed on April 1891, seven days before the lambs were shipped to Britain. Therefore covered a period of 182 days. The principal objects of the experiment were: 1. To ascertain whether lambs can be fattened at a profit in winter for the English market, in the hope of making another important industry to the agriculture of Canada. 2. To ascertain the suitability of the average grade lambs of Ontario for the said market; and 3. To ascertain whether autumn shorn lambs are the more suitable for spring shipment.

THE ANIMALS SELECTED. The lambs from which those intended for shipment were selected were purchased by Mr. J. E. Storey, farm foreman, in the eastern part of Ontario. There were purchased in all 505 grade lambs. Of these 312 came from the farms of Lanark and Carleton, 145 from Pontypool in the county of Durham, and 48 from Wellington and the adjoining counties. The first lot mentioned reached the farm during the latter part of September, those from Lanark and Carleton on October 4, and those from Pontypool on October 18. The lambs were a mixed breed and take them all in all were somewhat below the average, as they were purchased good lambs were hard to get. They were mostly the offspring of sires of the principal breeds which were in the country. Each lot of lambs was turned into the rape and fed upon the rape until October 20, when one hundred lambs were chosen for the experiment. In selecting, compact sized animals were chosen, and especially those having dark color so far as they could be obtained. Notwithstanding, a considerable number were not of this class. The most ungainly ones, however, were counted out, and but ninety of the lambs were included in the experiment proper. Interesting particulars regarding the experiment will be appended in the annual report.

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CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE EXPERIMENT. 1. The lambs selected were shorn Oct. 22 and 23. On October 24 they were all weighed separately and the weights recorded. They were then kept housed in sheds in cold and rough weather, and were turned to pasture on the rape in the day time when the weather

was fine, until November 21. After that date they were confined to the sheds and the yards in front of them. The sheds, or rather the shed, consisted of one large building with ceiling $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet high and a hay loft overhead. This building was divided into compartments about the same in size as those described in Bulletin No. LXVIII. The yards in front were also similar, and the general treatment of the lambs as to confinement or exposure was about the same as was those in the aforementioned bulletin. Some 16 or 17 animals were kept in each compartment. We considered them a little overcrowded, especially when they were feeding.

FOOD AND FEEDING. From October 24, the date of the first weighing, until November 21, they were fed hay and a limited amount of grain in addition to the rape which they secured in the field. The grain ration was gradually increased during this period. From November 21, 1890, until April 24, 1891, when the experiment closed, they were given a ration consisting of grain, roots and hay. The grain fed was accurately weighed. The whole amount consumed was—oats, 12,408 lb.; oat screenings, 1,062 lb.; peas, 4,712 lb.; bran, 1,777 lb. A small amount of damaged wheat was included in the reckoning for the peas. The ration thus formed was practically as follows: Oats, 7 parts; oat screenings, 1 part; peas, 3 parts; and bran, 1 part by weight. The grain was fed in the unground state. The quantity of the grain fed was increased from time to time, and the average amount consumed per day by each animal throughout the experiment was 1.3 lb. The lambs were given all the hay they would eat. It consisted of clover and timothy, but the principal portion was clover. The hay fed in this experiment was not weighed, but as another experiment was being carried on simultaneously in the same building, with lambs of similar character and very similarly fed, in which the hay ration was accurately weighed (see Bulletin LXVIII), we have used these weighings in estimating the amount of hay consumed in this experiment. This estimate would put the whole of the hay consumed at 13.9 tons, or the average amount consumed per day by each animal at 1.91 lb. The roots consisted of turnips sliced in strips before being fed. The amount at first given to each animal per day was 1 lb. This was increased from time to time until February 12, when they were given 5 lb. each per day, and this was the quantity given until the close of the experiment. The whole amount of the roots fed throughout was 50,301 lb., or $838\frac{1}{2}$ bush.; or, an average per day for each animal of 3.07 lb. They were supplied with water from taps in the pens.

ESTIMATED VALUE OF THE FOOD. The food was estimated at the current market values in Guelph, less the cost of marketing from an Ontario farm under average conditions.

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tin LXVIII). The home value put upon the food by this mode of
ning was : Oats, 34½ cents per bush.; pease, 52 cents ; bran
per ton ; roots sliced, 8 cents per bush.; and hay, \$4.50 per ton.

EIGHTS. Table I gives a summary and an analysis of weights :

	Pounds.
Weight at commencement	7,636.500
Weight at close.....	12,150.000
Weight of increase.....	4,513.500
Average increase per head	50.150
Average daily increase per head.....	.275

a average weight of each lamb at the commencement of the
ment was 84.85 lb., and at its close 135 lb. The average
per month therefore was 8.25 lb. The highest average gain
month was 11.70 lb., and the lowest 5.40 lb.

TRANSPORTATION. The lambs were put on board the cars
ay 1. The farm foreman took charge of them as far as
real, put them on board the steamship Lake Superior *en route*
Liverpool, and secured a competent feeder to care for them. The
number of lambs sent was 100. To make up this number the
lms described in Group 1, Bulletin LXVIII were added. Of these
e left with long wool and 5 were shorn just before shipment.
were thus chosen first, to make the number exactly 100, and
that some lambs might be included newly shorn and others
sed of long wool. The best of the lambs in those two groups
kept at home to be fed for show purposes. They have since
old to be shown at the approaching fat stock show in Chicago.
shipment reached Liverpool in good condition and without the loss
ngle lamb. The autumn shorn lambs stood the voyage better than
shorn in the spring, and also better than those not shorn, as
cond lot mentioned suffered from cold and the third from heat.
y also be mention'd here that the autumn shorn lambs occupied
erably less space than those in full fleece when on board the
and on their arrival they were in more attractive form than
of the other lots.

DISPOSAL OF THE LAMBS. They were consigned to Messrs.
and Williamson, live stock commission agents, Liverpool, to
posed of. Mr. G. F. Frankland, ex-Alderman, Toronto, who

was in Liverpool at the time, was also authorised to take notes and report upon the same. Mr. Frankland reported: 1. That lambs as a whole arrived in excellent condition. 2. That English buyers pronounced them one of the best lots of lambs ever sent to Canada to England. 3. That they killed well, dressing 68 per cent each, or a little more than half the live weight, which "is considered a good return, more especially after a journey of over 3,000 miles land and sea;" and 4. That when dressed the meat brought 17 pence per pound, "the highest quotation" at the time in the whole market.

VALUES. Table II gives the financial results of the experiment.

	Values.
	\$ c.
Value of the animals at the commencement of the test	362 73
Cost of shearing	4 50
Cost of food	339 62
Cost of attendance	40 95
Cost of shipping to England	375 21
Total cost	1,123 01
Value of lambs in England	1,061 08
Value of wool	47 50
Value of manure	122 85
Total value	1,231 43
Gain	108 42
Gain per cent. on investment	9.65

The average value of the lambs at the commencement of the experiment was \$4.03, and the average price for which they were sold in the English market was \$11.79. The average advance in value, therefore, was \$7.76. The cost of attendance was estimated in Bulletin LXVIII, on the assumption that one man would care for 400 lambs. The autumn shorn wool averaged 4.06 lb. per head unwashed, and sold for 13 cents per pound. The value put upon manure as in Bulletin LXVIII was $\frac{3}{4}$ ct. per animal per day, one-third of the amount fixed upon by Professor Roberts, of Cornell University, in a bulletin issued during the present year.

The cost of transportation and sale of the lambs was \$375.50, or \$4.17 per head. This was considerably more than the average cost which experienced shippers put at from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per head. This arose in part from the smallness of the shipment, which

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sity would involve more expense relatively than when done on a
scale. It is confidently believed that the cost of transportation
ale will be much reduced in the next shipment. If, in this
ment, \$2.75 which is about the average cost, were charged against
lams for shipment and sale, the financial results would be as
ws:

Total cost of lambs	\$995 30
Total value as before.....	\$1,231 43
Net gain	\$236 13
Gain per cent. on the investment	23.72 per cent.

is the intention to repeat the experiment the coming winter
spring.

CONCLUSIONS. The leading conclusions to be drawn from
experiment include the following:

That lambs can be fattened successfully in winter in
siderable numbers in one building when subdivided into
erately sized groups.

That average grade lambs will fatten satisfactorily in
umn and winter when fed daily a ration consisting of
e rape for a time, 1.30 lb. grain, 1.91 lb. hay, and 3.6
oots.

That average grade lambs when fed in winter similarly
hese in this experiment will make a gain of 50 lb. in
months, that is to say, .275 lb. per day, or 8.25 lb. per
nth.

That with the prices charged in this experiment, aver-
grade lambs can be fattened in winter at a daily cost of
7 cents for food.

That autumn shorn lambs are the most suitable for
ng shipment, as they occupy less space on shipboard,
y better resist changes of weather and present a more
active appearance in the market.

That it will pay to ship lambs to Britain at an advance
cents per pound, live weight, over what can be ob-
ed here, but the price obtained in Britain last season
not quite equal to 7 cents per pound, live weight, in
ario.

That there is room for a large and profitable trade in
grade lambs between Canada and Britain providing they
shipped early in the season.